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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Translated from the German Report 12/4

Dated: 28 April 1943

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PREFACE

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNW, LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. These reports appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. Eighty FOIA b3a of these reports have been translated and issued by [REDACTED]

It is planned to issue a complete set of translations of the reports beginning with the most recent and working backward, but omitting those already translated by [REDACTED]. The numbering of the items was added by the translator FOIA b3a the Germans did this only in the last eighteen reports, [REDACTED] inclusive. Since the original material was in Russian, an effort has been made when translating the German to determine the original Russian term wherever possible. This is facilitated by the Russian fondness for abbreviations. In these translations into English the probable meaning of the abbreviation will be given in parenthesis the first time it occurs in each report.

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28 April 1943

## The Soviet Union

## Military-Economic Report 12/4

(Based on domestic radio traffic)

Individual Messages1.) Personnel Situation

(1) On 1 April the Oblast' Waterways Directorate in Gorkij had a proposed working strength of 5,927 men. However, only 4,913 men were actually on hand. The following figures serve as an example:

	<u>Proposed Strength</u>	<u>On Hand</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Captains' Helpers	125	109	87.2
Mechanics	213	205	96.25
Apprentices	131	124	94.7
Divers	75	54	72
Stokers	275	180	61.05

(2) Stalingrad Rajon needs 149 men. Faulty performances on the part of the workers occur resulting in the loss of valuable effort.

(3) According to a message of the NKRF Office at Kujbyshev the 80 experienced shipping workers mobilized by the landing places have been used by Plant No. 1 in Kujbyshev as simple workers, although a great shortage of good shipping workers exists. Plant No. 1 is to transfer the 80 shipping workers to the Middle Volga Steamship Agency in exchange for other workers.

(4) The River Fleet Directorate in Molotov employs 6,000 men as traveling personnel. Through numerous recalls, the procurement and timber transportation must be discontinued. The carrying out of the assignments scheduled for the second and third quarters is very much in question because of this.

(5) Attempts are being made to overcome critical conditions through auxiliary measures. According to a message from Omsk and Semipalatinsk all workers mobilized as ships crew must also be trained in repair work. The responsible direction of this program was assigned to the captains of the actual ships.

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(6) The water transport bases in Novosibirsk and Irkutsk failed in the mobilization program and the carrying out of additional assignments.

(7) The water transport base in Krasnoyarsk received 100 mobilized persons for work on the ships.

(8) Furthermore, the office of the NKRF received instructions never again to transfer the 100 workmen of the Fish Trust who have been employed up to the present time at the ship repair yard.

2.) Food Situation

(9) The disturbances in the food supply could be determined as being on the increase during the last period; for example, in Kujbyshev where, as a result of non-supply of personnel with bread, the prompt putting to sea of the ships is in question. Furthermore, the NKRF offices in Kujbyshev received allotments for the second quarter which, however, only covered 22 per cent of the requirement for meat, 88 per cent for fat and 60 per cent for sugar. However, deductions relative to a general worsening of the food situation on the basis of these messages are to be considered risky since it may be a question in these cases of the general Russian critical situation.

(10) Great significance is being attached to the fish catch. The Astrakhan Office of the NK for the River Fleet received 5,000 tons of salt for salting fish and the Chief Supply Office of the NK for Communications in Ordzhonikidze received 300 tons of salt.

(11) The following deliveries for the Transcaucasian Front could be identified:

From the macaroni factory in Tiflis	50 tons of macaroni products
From the NK for the Food Industry	150 tons of macaroni products
From Grain Procurement in Erivan	350 tons peeled grain and 50 tons of manna

(12) Tiflis. The Chief Directorate for Vegetable Fat and Butter is to deliver 1.3 tons of vegetable fat to Plant #316 (in Tiflis) in the second quarter.

(13) The Transcaucasian Meat and Dairy Sales has to deliver in the second quarter to the Chief Directorate for Highways of the NKVD the following additional quantities:

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	<u>Meat Products</u>	<u>Powdered Eggs</u>
In Georgia	6.55 tons	2 tons
Azerbaijan	4.6	2.1
Armenia	8.55	---

(14) In April the butter factory is to deliver 163 tons of butter. However, it can produce only 140 tons.

(15) In the second quarter the Butter Industry in Makhachkala received 71 tons of ewe's cheese.

(16) In April the ore mine Shamluga requires 8 tons of grain feed.

(17) The Food Supply of the Zinc Industry in Mizura (Osetia) is to receive 6 tons of oats in April.

(18) On 15 April the city of Tiflis disposed of the following quantities of grain:

Grain Procurement	361 tons	flour
	32	groats
	284	rye
	795	wheat
Mill Combine	156	flour
	96	groats
	294	wheat
Bakeries	364	flour
	1	wheat

(19) On 15 April Grain Procurement South delivered 604 tons of sunflower kernels to the oil factory. Furthermore, it is reported there that a supply of 80 tons is on hand to be used only for maize.

(20) The Georgia NK for Trade allotted the following food to evacuated families:

27.3 tons flour	13.6 groats	2.73 fat
-----------------	-------------	----------

The following deliveries could be identified:

(21) The Tobacco Industry in Tiflis shipped 15 carloads of tobacco to Baku and 120 tons to Bataisk.

(22) In the first quarter the Syrup Industry in Agara delivered the following syrup.

To the alcohol distillery	Gomi	961 tons
Kolkhozes		1 ton
Agricultural needs		2 tons
Supply on 1 April		595 tons

(23) Khabarovks NKRF received 300 liters of schnapps from the Khabarovsk Schnapps Trust for the months of April and May.

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(24) Blagoveshchensk received 500 liters from the Schnapps Trust in Irkutsk for the Upper Amur Steamship Agency. The Khabarovsk Schnapps Trust delivered 500 liters of schnapps to Blagoveshchensk for the months of April and May.

3.) Material

	<u>Consignee</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Consignor</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(25)	Wadding Factory-Tiflis	1 ton	Felt	Tiflis-Georgia Light Industry	To be delivered in the second quarter
(26)	---	568 tons	Fireproof brick	Yaroslavl NKRF	---
(27)	Moscow Ship Repair Yard	500 square meters	Window glass	Gorkij River Fleet Supply	---
(28)	Volga Steamship Agency, Oblast' Waterways Directorate	1,000 square meters	Window glass	---	---
(29)	Stalingrad for the Lower Volga Steamship Agency	6 tons	Spanish white	Saratov River Fleet Supply	---
(30)	Astrakhan "Volga Tanker"	6 tons	Spanish white	---	---
(31)	Astrakhan "Volga Tanker"	9 tons	Paint	River Fleet Supply, Gorkij	---
(32)	Astrakhan "Volga Tanker"	15 tons	Varnish	Saratov	In April
(33)	Astrakhan "Volga Tanker"	150 tons	Cement	Volsk Plant "Bolshevik"	---
(34)	Astrakhan "Volga Tanker"	8 tons	Household soap	Kazan	---
(35)	Astrakhan NKRF	74,000 yds.	Tarpaulin	Krasnovodsk	---
(36)	Astrakhan NKRF	30,000 yds.	Tarpaulin	Baku	---
(37)	Astrakhan NKRF	3 carloads	Netting	---	For fishing purposes
(38)	Kama Steamship Agency	20 tons	Cement	Volsk NKRF	---
(39)	Upper Volga Steamship Agency	40 tons	Cement	---	---
(40)	Middle Volga Steamship Agency	20 tons	Cement	---	---
(41)	Lower Volga Steamship Agency	20 tons	Cement	---	---
(42)	Novosibirsk NKRF	20 tons	Cement	---	In April
(43)	Kama Steamship Agency Oblast' Waterways Directorate	10 tons	Spanish white	Molotov NKRF	---



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	<u>Consignee</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(44)	Erivan Armenian NK	2,000 tons	Cement	Required for second quarter
(45)	Gorodets NKRF	0.3 tons	Red lead	Required
(46)	Kujbyshev	5 carloads	Fireproof brick	Received
		1,000 units	Incandescent bulbs	Required
(47)	Kujbyshev	3,000 meters	Lines	Required
		1 ton	Paper	Delivered
(48)	Ufa NKRF	5 carloads	Fireproof brick	Received
		3,000 tons	Wood tar	Purchase permitted for the Steamship Agency Lines
		6,000 tons	Charcoal	"
(49)	Uralsk NKRF	1 carload	Fireproof brick	
(50)	Chardzhou	20 tons	Flax in fibers	From Frunze
(51)	Krasnoyarsk NKRF	15 tons	Bleached oakum	Required
(52)	Irkutsk NKRF	5 cases	Matches	From the match factory in Baikal-Usole

4.) Transport Situation

(53) Transports of greater volume are scheduled for May in the Caucasus Oblast'.

These will serve in part for armaments production. The following transports were identified:

In May Local Supply in Tiflis will receive 29 cars for transporting oil bitumen. The transport are assigned as follows:

From Batum to Lagernaya (Kazan)	4 cars
From Batum to Kurya (Perm)	5 cars
From Batum to Smyshlyaevka (Kujbyshev)	2 cars
From Batum to Chapaeusk (Kujbyshev)	2 cars
From Batum to Krivoshchekovo (Tomsk)	10 cars
From Batum to Kaganovich	3 cars
From Batum to Dzerzhinsk (Gorkij)	3 cars

(54) For the month of May 26 cars were authorized for the glass factory in Ogni

(Dagestan) with the following destinations:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Railway Line</u>	<u>Number of Cars</u>
	Kazan	1
Izhevsk		1
Lagernaya		1
Simonovo	Moscow	2
Beskudnikovo	Yaroslavl	2
Grazhdanskaya	Kalinin	1
Voskresensk	Leninsk	1
Erivan	Transcaucasus	1
Ordzhonikidze		7

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<u>Station</u>	<u>Railway Line</u>	<u>Number of Cars</u>
Alagir		1
Rostov		1
Elshanka	Southeast	7

(55) In May 155 cars were authorized for the Chief Directorate for Highways of the NKRF in Erivan for the transport of building materials. Likewise, the Wool Industry in Erivan requires 37 cars in June for transport.

(56) Great set-backs in transporting freight could be determined at the NKRF offices. Kujbyshev reported the following freight which is still to be shipped in April according to plan:

Bread Grain	105,900 tons
Cement	24,200 tons
(Mine Material?)	64,200 tons
Slate	38,000 tons
Timber for ships	54,000 tons
Other timber	9,400 tons
Floated timber	18,900 tons
Timber in the warehouses of the landing places	510 tons

(57) NKRF Kujbyshev was responsible for transporting goods and for fulfilling the April transport plan. However, this is questionable in view of the transfer of the passenger ships to the Kama Steamship Agency.

(58) Kazan NKRF has to prepare 10 barges for shipping bread grain along the tributaries.

(59) In April and May Stalingrad NKRF has to transport 20,000 tons of stones to Durovga for the construction of a railroad bridge.

(60) Volsk reports that, because of the lack of railroad cars, it can not ship 150 tons of cement (compare above under Material).

(61) Because of the lack of transportation facilities, Molotov NKRF is not in a position to transport 50,000 cubic meters of timber which is 25 per cent of the requirement during the navigation period.

(62) In May the following metal products were brought for shipment:

Ship Repair Yard Omsk	8 carloads
Lower Irtysh Steamship Agency	2 carloads

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5.) Reconstruction

(63) Three hundred thousand rubles are needed for the most essential repair work on a plant for agricultural machines in Prokhladnaya.